



12¢

JUNE
NO. 212



BATMAN

SHOT, POISONED
AND ELECTROCUTED--!

NO ONE,
COMMISSIONER!

WHO
COULD HAVE
DONE THIS,
BATMAN?



BATMAN

WITH THE BOY WONDER

STORY BY: ALAN ROSS
ART BY: BOB KNECHT &
JOE ORIELLA

NEITHER
COMMISSIONER GORDON
NOR OBVIOUSLY DIED
OF NATURAL
CAUSES!

OBVIOUSLY BATMAN—
AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE
OF MURDER! THE QUESTION
IS HOW DID THE VICTIM DIE?
BY BULLET—POISON DART—
OR ELECTROCUTION? OR
WAS IT ALL THREE?

BY BULLET?

POISON DART?

...POISON DART?

...OR BY ELECTROCUTION?

5-110

AN AMAZING CONCLUSION—CONSIDERING THE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY!
HAD BATMAN LOST CONTACT WITH REALITY? OR WAS HIS BRILLIANT MIND PERPETUALLY OUT CLUES
THAT ELUDE EVEN THE BEST CRIMINAL MINDS IN GOTHAM CITY? WE CHALLENGE YOU TO PUT
YOUR PRODUCTIVE ABILITIES AGAINST THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE IN THE ASTOUNDING
CASE OF THE...

"BAFFLING DEATHS OF THE CRIME-CZAR!"

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GOTHAM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL—A SPECIAL DINNER BEING GIVEN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO HONOR DR. JENNINGS, SURGEON-RESEARCH SURGEON...

WHERE'S BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON? THE PRESENTATION MUST BEGIN SOON—AND AS LEADING TRUSTEES, BRUCE HAD TO MAKE IT!

WE'VE HAD ANOTHER DINNER TO ATTEND—BUT AS PROMISED TO BE HERE IN TIME!

AFTER ALL—THE MONEY CONTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE GREAT STUDIES IN MEDICINE FOR WHICH WE'RE HONORING DR. JENNINGS!

AND IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM CITY A "WELCOME HOME" DINNER IS BEING GIVEN TO MR. BIG OF THE UNDERWORLD—LIL STU!

"WELCOME HOME"—THAT'S A LAFF! IF HE'D HAVE KICKED OFF THE HOSPITAL, I'D BE BOSS NOW!

OKAY, GURK, SO THE DOC PUT A NEW PART IN HIM—OR SOMETHING! SO HE'S OLD! HE CAN'T LIVE FOREVER!

LIL STU!

BUT I COULD DIE OF OLD AGE FIRST... WHILE HE LOOKS BETTER THAN BEFORE THE OPERATION!

HE'S GOT TO GO—TODAY! AND I'VE GOT IT ALL ARRANGED!

BUT THIS IS THE OTHER DINNER BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON HAD TO ATTEND! BUT NOT AS HONORED GUESTS...

I HATE TO THINK BRUCE, WHAT WE'D BE IN FOR IF THAT MOB OUT THERE SUSPECTED WHO WE ARE...

GUESS WE'D BE SERVED UP AS THE MAIN COURSE, DON'T YOU THINK WE'VE GOT TO COVER THIS GRANDLAND? THANKS, GUY!

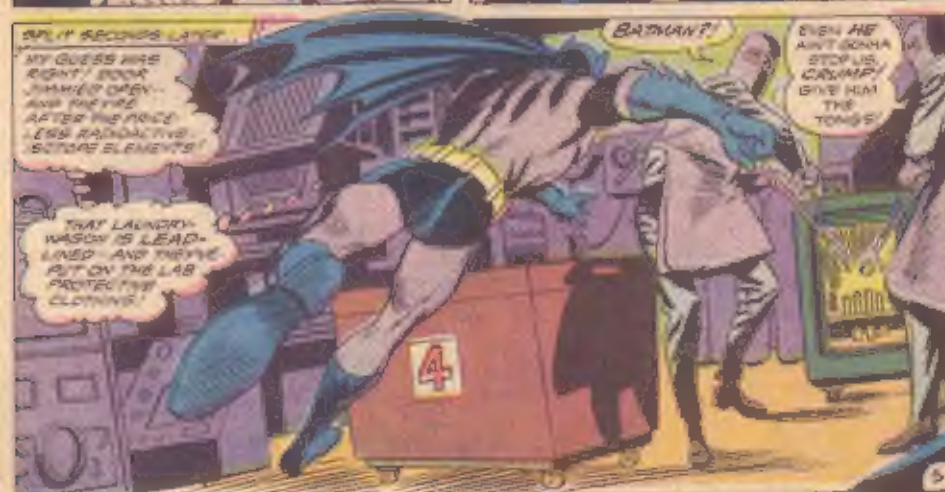
ANYNUMBER OF WELCOMES HERE, I'D TIGHT HOLLER! WE PREFERRED THAT LIL STU! HAD DIED IN THE HOSPITAL! BUT NOW THAT HE'S BACK BETTER THAN NEW!

SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET IMPATIENT!









ONLY SECONDS LATER...
MY GUESS WAS RIGHT! DOOR JAMMED OPEN... AND THE FIRE AFTER THE FIRE... LEAD RADIATION... SUFFICIENT ELEMENTS!

THAT LAUNDRY WAGON IS LEAD-LINED AND THERE PUT ON THE LAB PROTECTIVE CLOTHING!



LIKE MY BUDDY SAID—
YOU GET THE TONGS!

ZWOOSH!



OHNO!
MY
HAND!
HEN! HEN!
THIS LEAD-
APPROX IS
BETTER! A
BULLET-
PROOF
TEST!

ZUNG!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, BABY—
HURT YOUR LIP? PAW?

MAYBE A HIT IN THE
HEAD WITH THESE
LEAD-LOADED
KNUCKLES WILL
TAKE A LOAD
OFF YOUR
MIND!

KCHUNG!



I HEAR THESE X-RAY
MACHINES CAN BURN
RIGHT THROUGH YA—
IF YA JUICE UP THE VOLTAGE
HIGH ENOUGH!

YEAH?
HEN / LET'S
SEE!





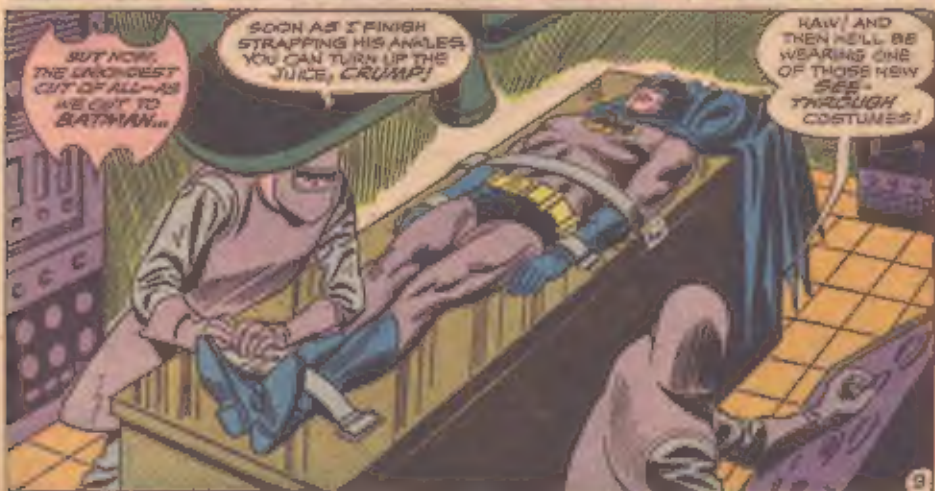
MEXICAN BUG



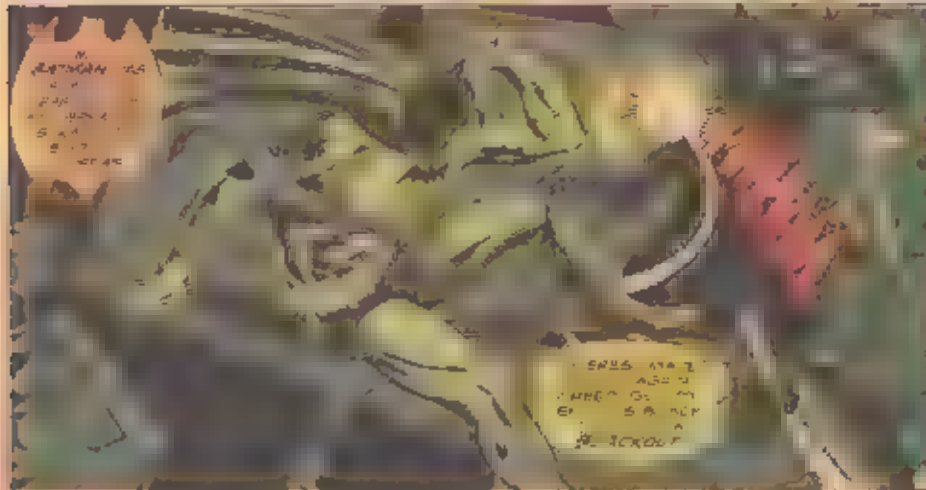
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A BRIEF POWER-
FUL, FACT-
BASED AND
RESEARCH-
DRIVEN
VIEW OF
BLACK AFRICANS

3. PLATE
10/15/52

TWO THREE
MINUTES
21.000 HLT
POWER 5.000
WAVE 300

THAT SHORT THE
 AGE OF
 DIVAS ALL
 YEARS
 YEARS

WILSON, THE
A. C. L.
STAND-BY
DO: 12 2 ANT

76-8;
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AS THEY ENTER THE DOWNSTAIRS LAB
UNFORTUNATELY MR HAD THE LOW POWERS
OF OBSERVATION ARE MOST ACUTE THAT
WALL CLOCK INDICATES A TIME WAS
OF ABOUT THREE MINUTES

BUT DON'T
UNDERSTAND DOCTOR
ALL EQUIPMENT IS NOW
FUNCTIONING YET YOU
MAKE SOUND LIKE A
LIFE OR-DEATH
PROBABILITY

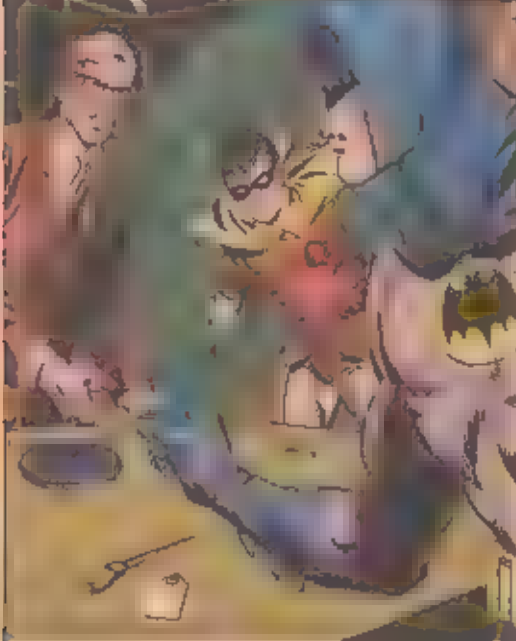


IT WAS MY AFRAID
THE B-2 T C - ER
B-2 T C ABOUT
- DEAD

LATER AT POLICE HQ FOLLOWING AN URGENT CALL BY
COMMUNICATOR GORDON

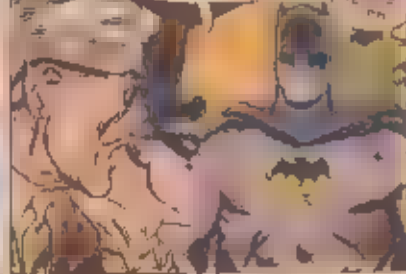
AS YOU CAN SEE BATHMAN-
THE CAUSE - CAUSES-
- HE IS A FARE FAIR
OBVIOUSLY PREMEDITATED
MURDER - BY AT LEAST
THREE - ERS

CORRECTION
COMMISSIONER THE
VICTIM OBVIOUSLY
DIED OF NATURAL
CAUSES



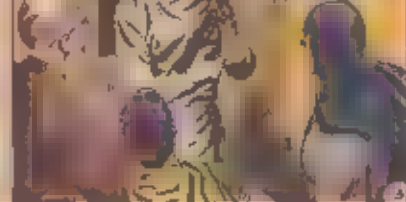
WHY CAN'T
YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS

YOU'VE GOT TO BE
NOT THIS BATHMAN AFRAID
I WAS THERE
JUNIOR ER
AND SAW THE
STAY'S
ELECTROCUT



DO YOU KNOW HE
A A - A BUREAU
YOUR DO - A
BEFORE -
NO BL

WHY'S WHY
FEELING - A -
THE AREA - BE -
-
- PATIENT
- FIVE
SECONDS BEFORE
HE ETH -
HE - ER'S
FIVE - ER
TARGET







LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

495

Guest Editor

He and O'Phegan (one of many names) was "longer in" in the early 1930s and wrote a book about why do ask. Because it was a story, the best fact-tale ever written, perhaps a base as the future seems and even the new piece of script was Mr. Robinson's ever more.

[illegible][illegible]

RAND RIFE - Rosette Court

[illegible]

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Dear Editor

So many of how often you use those splash words
to be so and and on language and and and
they interrupt the flow of the story. The use of
emphatic in single respects didn't help the story
at all. The fact that I seriously don't
it. Burrows upon joining the door of his eleven
in the future and being a perfect starting to cap a
which is a fair way. What image came at this. In
to a new and a new one. How would so do
with the fact it was necessary for the
up with a better title, but that is why in the fact and
to be the editor.

EXAMPLE: JIMMY was the stupid dialogue between
Tom and Braden. The moment he saw
him on his feet, he got all over
him. He was like a - you know he
was a - he was a - he was a - he was a -

ity being a public servant and his duty being open all day long to the public like the police. I think that the police might be a good idea about the way we do the work of the town and for the town.

Peter Sanderson brought up some good points in this issue's EXTRA lettercol. The Joker should be mainly be brought to a halt and brought in, not clown. I can't see anything wrong with depicting him as a man in the end, not as a clown. He got really this angry and he should anything and see. The same way as he saw me when I was in the end. But please, you can all fight him because Batman is not a clown.

abundant; thus the vocal organ, and figure to be im-
p- with more force, and in a more complete
one-hundred fold. He is more intelligent and more
one-hundred fold.

BILL STEPHAN Newmarket, N.

and his reaction to the new Comm. Gordon greeted a "puzzling citizen." Won't you at least reconsider the police commissioner's "realistic" reception to the Joker in the June Detective Comics: we welcome comparisons with the average American citizen.

7 5 7 5 7

Dancer, Editha

I am a long time fan of an open co. An apology because when I saw the cover of *Barnum* #209, I was all set to hate "Jungle Jeopardy"! Then I bought the mag and read it--and all I can say is WOW! With the February issue you have started another great year for the Cured Crusader.

Now, on to the second point (Surely you didn't expect me to say that you were the best person I ever met, did you?) Well, he is a really nice person, but he is a little bit of a fellow my name is to need to be good in his own way. So I was sure as well you got the picture. One last point—please, at the end of each hour, let the people in the store for all in the rest of the day. You know how many of them come in to be with you is the rest of the day.

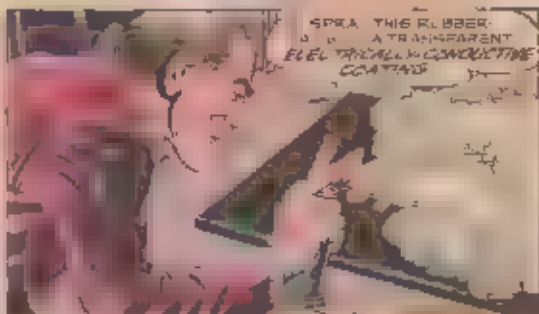
• 3. $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear map. Then f is continuous at x_0 if and only if f is continuous at 0 .

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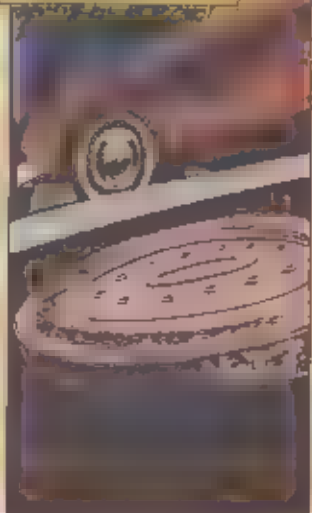
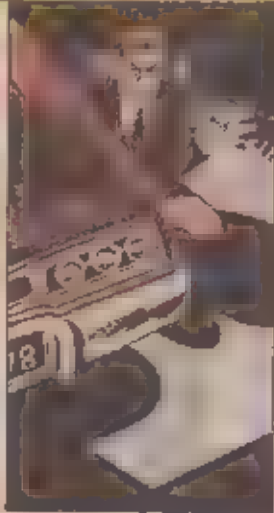
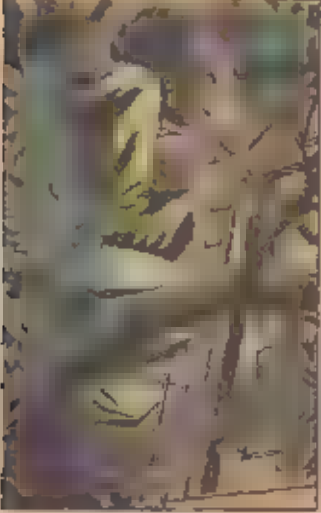
中国书店

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HE SEES AN OLD TRAP LINE TRAP, AND THE LETHAL TO CHASE HIMSELF IN THE RAIN



AND
HIS
LATER

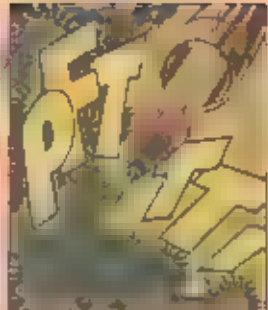
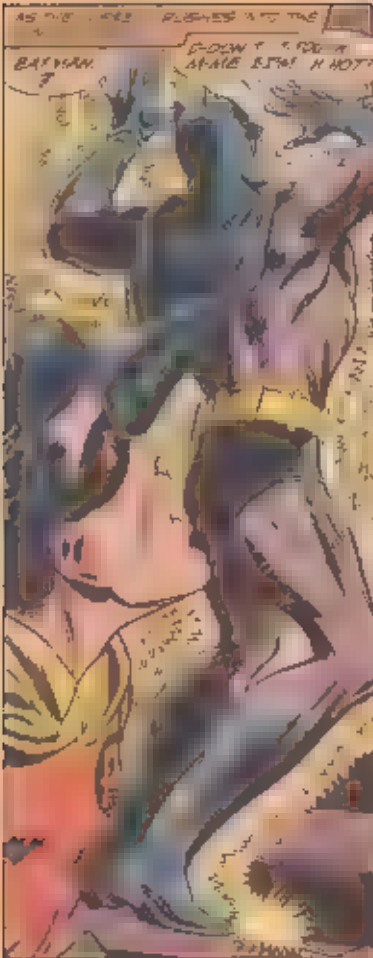
SO WE'RE GOING
TO HIT THEM
HEAD-ON?

BEST WAY I CAN
THINK OF TO TRAP
THEM, STAY BEHIND
US ROBIN

BUT THE REAL TRAP IS ABOUT TO BE SET

BATMAN AND ROBIN?
A. A. 300 THAT
WELCOME MAT'S
B. 300 ON FOR
BOTH OF EM!

TO BE
BOYS? HIS
D. THE BIG
PAY-OFF!









NEW KING-SIZE "MATCHBOX" MODEL OF THE MONTH.



Mercury Cougar
No. K-11
Reg. incl. \$1.50

Detroit better watch out with this new Mercury Cougar on the scene.

It's as authentic as can be. With doors that really open, true-grade steering and independent suspension. And that beautiful metallic gold paint job is sure to make everybody go up and take notice. Keep your collection up to the minute. New models are out all the time. And to be a real "MATCHBOX" expert write for the free catalogue.

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Dear Editor:

Perhaps I should not feel that I have any right to criticize your publication since I am only an avid reader but have never written or illustrated any fan stories as you continue to do. Lately, on the *Batman* (and *Detective*) covers there have been melodramatic illustrations depicting all sorts of ridiculous scenes such as Robin being a law-breaker, Robin hating Batman, Batman becoming a deathrow inhabitant, and assorted covers featuring ideas of hate, cruelty, distrust, and law-breaking between the *Dynamic Duo*. I was not at all surprised to see on the cover of *Batman* #209 that Batman turned into a tiger that is planning to tear Robin apart. Eventually, I fear I may see Robin murdering Batman and Batman's ghost hanging Robin—on the cover, of course. All this is very annoying and you all deserve twenty lashes with a wet noodle.

It is clearly understood by me that not every reader daily visits the newstand of his choice to be sure not to miss an issue (as I do). I realize that you want to attract attention and purchasers with vivid, exciting covers and splashy pages. This is no excuse for covers and splashes that glorify hate between Batman and Robin (or anyone for that matter, but that is a whole different story). Please—Batman and Robin are close, close friends. There is no good reason to have "Damon and Pythias" turn into bitter foes for the sake of an attention-getting device.

Thank you for taking time to read this. I should have told you first that regardless of the cover I found #209 of *Batman* to be superb in content and entertainment. It also had a story that supported the fact that Batman and Robin need each other and get along great.

—ALICE IRMA, Richmond Hill, N.Y.

(Strange that you should rip into us for "law-breaking, hate-filled" cover-splashes by "violently" inflicting twenty lashes (albeit with a wet noodle)—which does as much harm to us as we believe those cover-splashes do to the reader.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In the February EXTRA interview, Orin Kilkenny put forth five "inconsistencies" he had discovered in *Batman* over the years, and asked the inevitable question: Why? Ye Editor urged all fandom to reply. Well, here I am.

The first "inconsistency" pointed out was the fact that Batman's bat-apparel doesn't strike terror into the hearts of criminals any more, as it was supposed to in the beginning, whereas his reputation does. This, I hold, is only natural. Bruce Wayne chose his costume back in the non-intellectual days when kids under twelve months were the only children who read comics. It was very easy then to give such a lame excuse for a costume, because the readers weren't in-

terested in petty details and everybody knew that criminals were a "cowardly, superstitious lot". Nowadays (and I may sound now-gossamer-wing, but it's true), DC readers are a lot smarter, and a lot more discerning. Today any crook who saw a guy flapping down the street in bat-wings and long Johns would laugh himself silly, and he got to know how dangerous that "weirdo" was. DC changed with its public, Mr. Kilkenny, so I doubt if you'll see any more cowardly, superstitious crooks. (Neurotic, yes; cowardly, no.)

The second "inconsistency" was that *Batman*, who's supposed to be human, never makes a mistake. There is a good reason for this. *Batman* doesn't exist, and he never did! He is a fictitious character. (He does have human weaknesses, by the way: see the latest *Batman* Giant.) If DC started having a *Batman* who fell over his own feet every time he *leaped* around, its readership would plummet. Let's face it, most people are mental and physical klutzes; what makes *BM* a super-hero is that he *isn't*.

The third "inconsistency" was that the criminals in *Batman* never gain by their crimes, and that there are no murders. There's also a good reason for this, namely, the Comics Code. Crime doesn't pay—at least, that's the saying—and DC has to follow it in every story. That's also why you don't see many DC heroes getting clubbed by the villains, unless the story's a two-parter. As for the second objection, it's a bit erroneous. There *have* been murders in *Batman*, but not too many—again, I think, because of the CC. (And they aren't really necessary. You want murders, read the *Times*.)

The fourth "inconsistency" was that Bruce Wayne isn't out on the town enough: i.e., his playboy image is suffering. I agree. It is. However, Mr. Wayne "is" a confirmed old bachelor and very likely to remain so, and anyway, we read *Batman* to see *Batman*, not girls.

The last point Mr. Kilkenny made was a very valid one, and I'm surprised that no one has mentioned it before. Bruce's original reason for being *Batman* (the murder of his parents) does seem to have worn thin, seeing that they died thirty years ago. (The same goes for Robin.) But we're dealing in comic-magazine time, don't forget, not real time. Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson haven't aged one single year since they donned their fighting garb, and they never will. Oh, there have been a few changes, but to all intents and purposes, they're immortal. Having their memories of their parents' murders slip away from them would be like having *Little Orphan Annie* start going out on dates: it's impossible.

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